

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee

Meeting

October 18, 2007

Members Present: Barbara Henry, Jon Lourie, Abrielle Anderson, Pete Esker, Renee Okon, Robb Parker, Mary Pat Spon and Nancy Schwiesow

Members Absent: Bob Middleton, Carmen Camacho, Genny Hardesty

Guest: Bruce Lee, Neal Blake, Charlie Maier, Lt. Auger, Bob Dalrymple, Johnathan Meyers, Rick Siebert, and Jane Redicker

Staff: Mel Tull, Vicki Lockerman, and Jerry Sanford

Welcome/Introduction – Genny Hardesty, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Motion: (Henry, Schwiesow) the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee Approved the July 2007 minutes

Election of Vice Chair:

The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee unanimously elected Jon Lourie as the new Vice Chair.

Police Update

Lt Auger reported that:

- Burglary and robbery tends have relatively slowed down for the last couple of weeks. Theft from vehicles continues to be an issue in particular air bags and catalytic converters and these items are not tracked very well and it's an emerging thing that the Police are looking into. Arrests were made last week dealing with theft from auto situation.
- The Police Community Action Team (PCAT) is here in Silver Spring at my request. This is squad of about eight officers, that are placed in high crime areas or areas that have a particular trend and need extra attention and they go all over the County. They have been down here because we where having a spike in street robberies around the metro station and up Colesville Road, they have been saturating that area doing a lot of field interrogation, being visible and as a result they have made a couple fantastic drug arrests.

Barbara Henry asked who supervised the security force in the parking garages

Rick Siebert responded the security force in the parking garages consist of County Police, Urban District Clean and Safe Team and contracted MVM Officers and Stan Gray is the Program Manager that is responsible for managing them.

Retreat Follow-up

Barbara Henry stated that there where some things talk about at the Retreat that are germane to projects that come before the Committee. The summary notes where sent to you. I have compiled a list of items

that we agreed we wanted to focus our attention on and I will try to bring this every month so we can remember what we said we wanted to do. This will be germane to conversations we continue to have on what kind of development we want to see in Silver Spring and our visions for Silver Spring in the future. One thing this Committee has had tendency to do is as we progress through the meetings through the years we have tendency to lose focus. Jon Lourie and I have talked about our desire have the Committee remain true to what we accomplish at the Retreats because otherwise our work is sort of pointless.

1050 Ripley Street

Bob Dalrymple Linowes and Blocher and Jonathan Meyers, Washington Property Company gave a brief overview of the 1050 Ripley Street project as follows:

PRELIMINARY PLAN AND SITE PLAN

The Applicant (Washington Property Company) is preparing to submit an application for a preliminary plan and site plan for a mixed-use project in the Ripley District of Silver Spring. The property that is the subject of these applications consists of approximately 44,752 square feet and is located east of the railroad tracks and south of and fronting on Ripley Street, between the railroad tracks and the proposed master-planned extension of Dixon Avenue to the east (the "Property"). The Property is zoned CBD-2 (Central Business District, 2), and is currently improved with deteriorating automotive and other industrial buildings and uses, and paved surface parking area.

The Applicant received project plan approval from the Montgomery County Planning Board on June 22, 2007 for a mixed-use development of up to 306,258 square feet, including 305 multi-family dwelling units with 46 MPDUs, and up to 3,068 square feet of non-residential/retail uses on the Property (the "Project"). The Applicant now proposes to submit a preliminary plan and site plan application for a 306,241 gross square-foot, mixed-use project with 306 multi-family dwelling units, up to 3,068 square feet of non-residential/retail uses, and underground parking. Consistent with the project plan approval, the maximum building height of the Project is 200 feet.

Residents of the Project will access the four-level underground parking via the garage entrance on the west end of Ripley Street, and trucks will access the loading and service area at the southeast corner of the Property from future Dixon Avenue extended. The Applicant will improve the southern half of Ripley Street along the Property line, and will also construct Ripley Street extended to the connection with Bonifant Street, as well as streetscape improvements along the west side of Ripley Street extended (adjacent to the railroad tracks). The Applicant will provide significant public use and amenity space through implementation of the Metropolitan Branch Trail (shared use trail) along the west side of the Property and associated amenities. The Project will also improve and compliment the Property frontages along Ripley Street and Dixon Avenue in accordance with the Silver Spring streetscape treatment required for all optional method projects, including street trees, brick pavers, and lighting.

Discussion:

Abrielle Anderson asked what the project was across the street

Jonathan Meyers responded that the project across the street is Kettler Mid Town Condominium.

Barbara Henry asked what the ceiling height was of the first floor

Jonathan Meyers responded that there is 18 feet on the first floor, second floor and fourth floor allowing for a very nice retail space.

Jon Lourie stated that the site plans shows green.

Jonathan Meyers stated that there are trees and grass areas.

Jon Lourie asked about the number of parking

Bob Dalrymple responded stated there will be one parking space per unit and the project is in the parking district and the requirement is zero but there will be parking to meet code.

Barbara Henry asked what the distribution of unit where for the project

Jonathan Meyers responded roughly it is about 25% studios, 50% one bedrooms and one bedroom with dens and about 25% two bedrooms plus or minus.

Live Nation

Bruce Lee, Lee Development Group, Neal Blake, Comptroller and Charlie Maier, Public Relations person for both Lee Development and the County presented a brief overview of the project as follows:

- The deal with Birchmere fall apart and County Executive Leggett did an excellent job recognizing the fact this was not a good economic deal offered a best and final and they refused the offer.
- We contacted Live Nation they were interested and we started meeting with them. We accomplished more in eight weeks than we did in five years and now have a signed Letter of Intent.
- The footprint is the same and it will be a flexible building, designed for seated and stand-up events, conference, rental, film, state of the arts electronic and sound equipment and we have been in discussion with AFI and Discovery about expanding SILVERDOCS and doing additional film and music festivals.

Mel Tull showed a PowerPoint presentation on the Fillmore as follows:

- The project has been in progress for a long time with music, live entertainment and community use facility. The proposed location for the Fillmore is on Colesville Road between Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street in the former JC Penny Building directly across the street from AFI and Round House Theatre.
- The Fillmore Silver Spring will be an exciting live music facility able to accommodate 500 (seated) to 2,000 (standing) patrons.
- The Fillmore will be managed by Live Nation – a leading concert promoter and entertainment venue management company whose mission is to inspire passion for live music around the world.
- The Fillmore will be multifunctional to allow for varied entertainment and private rental events. Activities such as musical concerts, comedy acts, film debuts, film festivals, art festivals, corporate rentals, public rentals for function such as school musicals, small graduations and ceremonies are possible.
- Live Nation will program the facility to a broad range of musical tastes that reflect the diversity of Silver Spring: rock, pop, jazz country, salsa and more!
- Why because Silver Spring has emerged as a vibrant and exciting location for arts and entertainment, with AFI, Round House Theatre, Discovery Communication and the Majestic Theaters. The area is

designated by the State of Maryland as an Arts and Entertainment District. A live music facility will round out the entertainment mix, and provide legions of new customers to shop and dine in downtown Silver Spring.

- Several years ago, the Lee Development Group demolished the interior portion of the building to stabilize and preserve the J.C. Penny façade to facilitate its designation on Montgomery County's Historic Preservation Register.
- The new music venue will preserve the historic façade of the old store, and simultaneously stimulate additional redevelopment in downtown Silver Spring
- The Lee Development Group will donate the land needed for the project to the County.
- The County and State will be contributing \$4 million each for construction of the building.
- Live National will provide the internal fit-out of the Fillmore and will program, market and manage the facility
- The following entities are working on the project Lee Development Group, Montgomery County Government, Holland & Knight, Hickok Cole, Architects, Rodgers Consulting, Davis and Maier Warner, Public Relations/Marketing.
- The 32,000 square foot Fillmore will be LEED Silver Certified based on the new standards adopted by the County Council in 2006.
- For more detailed information of the presentation please refer to the hard copy distributed or visit www.livemusicss.com which will answer a number of questions folks may have.

Bruce Lee stated their objective and deal has not changed. We are taking a lot of risk because we don't have a project but are willing to take the risk and recognize the benefit to downtown Silver Spring. We are seeing rental rates for Class A rentals anywhere from \$29 to maybe as high as \$31 dollars a square foot with a good amount of bid out. We have a 5% to a little bit below 5% vacancy rate in all of downtown Silver Spring with Class A rentals. The process is complicated and we have to go in for a Zoning Text Amendment over and above what the Park and Planning is currently trying to help us with in the Arts and Entertainment District to have the music qualify as a public amenity and public use space. We will have a sub-division regulation and both of these will be introduced by the County Executive. County Executive Leggett is very excited about this venue and has enjoyed working with Live Nation and Tim Firestine has been terrific.

The venue is diverse in terms of kid venues, comedy acts, poetry, working with local schools and local bands. Think about 500 to 1500 people coming to downtown Silver Spring to see an 8:00 show they would more than likely go to dinner at the restaurants here in Silver Spring and this will add the economic energy and engine we need in downtown Silver Spring.

There is a pedestrian and bike path on the Sector/Master Plan. It goes from Fenton Street with a grade drop of about 12 feet from Fenton down to Georgia running along the property line approximately 20 feet in width. There is a 16 story building on this lot the Montgomery Center and the potential of an 8 to 10 story building behind the music center, another 10 to 11 stories which Richie Cohen owns and is planning to do about a 10 story office building. You have over 300 linear foot path going nowhere and it needs to be removed in order to accommodate the music center and we shifted the building footprint right up against the property line in order to accommodate the center. We met with the Police they are very supportive and do not want to see another Forest Glen Bridge situation and they are writing a letter of support for eliminating this pedestrian path.

Discussion:

Barbara Henry stated this is not a Silver Spring project anymore than Strathmore is a Bethesda project but a Montgomery County and economic development project. I attended the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, (SSCAB) and was frankly surprised when a member suggested that Silver Spring has enough traction on its own and does not require a subsidy. Anybody walking in the Ripley District or the north side of Georgia Avenue knows that is simply not true because essentially no economic development has taken place with exception to United Therapeutics. Given the impact fees being considered by County Council and the Planning Board, United Therapeutics is reconsidering their expansion in that part of Silver Spring. We can't do without this project because we are on the cusp of determining whether Silver Spring is going to be successful in terms of economic development. We may find ourselves in this Special Session with the money disappearing and we need to be vigilant about that money. I am on the Board of the County's Chamber of Commerce and it would not be a stretch to say what is happening at the Conference Center in Bethesda is about as close to economic rape as you can find prices have gone up 7 to 10% every year on the use of the facility and it is over booked to the point you can not get a date unless you book a year to two years ahead. There are huge complaints now because there is no competition in Montgomery County. Keep in mind this is an economic development initiative in an Arts and Entertainment District.

Nancy Schwiesow suggested a media or marketing piece needs to be done showing how Silver Spring was in the early 90's because it seems people are forgetting just how awful it was.

Barbara Henry stated perhaps we need to do a walking tour and that this should be a requisite for this Committee and asked SSCAB to contemplate having a tour with us.

Bruce Lee stated when they contacted Live Nation their response was where is Silver Spring? Live Nation is also taking a huge risk but when they looked at the market data saw it was very similar to other areas they thought this would be a great opportunity.

Jon Lourie asked what SSCAB members general consensus after the presentation.

Barbara Henry responded that she was really surprised and they had very good questions.

Jon Lourie stated that Live Nation has other venues around the Country so if I wanted to see what types of acts we might get in Silver Spring could I look at what is going on in Philadelphia and Miami.

Bruce Lee responded that Live Nation has a website and you can go on-line and find the information but keep in mind they are all somewhat different because they cater to the market they are in. Live Nation is unique and they understand the Washington DC market they do the booking at Rams Head and understand the demographics and see the opportunity. There are about 6 or 8 Fillmore's already in existence.

Jon Lourie stated that residents were comfortable with the idea of the Birchmere coming to Silver Spring so they need to get comfortable with Live Nation and understand what type of acts they would have.

Bruce Lee responded that Live Nation books Strathmore, Warner, Rams Head and they understand the market. Although there has been a lot of misperception about Live Nation once we explain the venue citizens groups have admitted that this was not what they originally understood the venue to be.

Jon Lourie asked Rick Siebert about the two garages that are under utilized although a new hotel is being developed opposite the Hilton. The garage is being renovated and the one on the corner of Spring and Colesville and lots of studies will be done in terms of utilization and traffic.

Rick Siebert asked Bruce Lee how many square feet of office space is being planned.

Bruce Lee responded that we are not asking for more density or height all we want is to be protected so we will be able to build on the site. The numbers are coming in at approximately 359,000 square feet for example Lee Plaza is about 145,000 square feet. For parking purposes we design the site in terms of what could fit and it depends on the granite but we can get about 2 ½ levels safely underground and about 3 to 4 above ground anywhere from 550 spaces and if we had to go down a little bit more and pick-up a different level we could get up to 680-700 spaces.

Jon Lourie asked if the plan was to provide parking on site.

Bruce Lee stated they are big believers in leasing.

Neal Blake stated that the parking lot can be utilized until constructions starts on the project and until that time we will continue having parking available in the evenings.

Jon Lourie stated that the construction and music center is not contingent on the rest of the development.

Bruce Lee responded that it is contingent on us getting the protections we need. The goal is to build Phase I of the project and the rest would sit until we have an economically viable opportunity.

Jon Lourie asked if the facility would be market rate rental and will there be different rates for community use.

Bruce Lee responded that a specific business contacted me after the County Executive announced Live Nation and stated that it sounded like the building would have flexibility because they are desperate for a location that would accommodate 900 employees.

Jon Lourie stated one possible question is asked for rates available for community use.

Bruce Lee responded that Live Nation is very community oriented and are located in 41 countries.

Jon Lourie asked if this project would be the impetus to take care of the adjacent properties in terms getting them combined in some sort of manner.

Bruce Lee stated one of the businesses adjoining has gone to the landlord to get a longer term lease.

Barbara Henry stated part of the problem is there is has been no stimulus on that side of the street.

Jon Lourie asked what the milestones were and how can the Committee help

Bruce Lee responded that the milestones are big. We need the Zoning Text Amendment and the SRA to get the protections that we need and we need support. This process will be extensive because we still

have to go for a project plan, site plan and there is no way around it. We are unfortunately going to spend a lot of our own capital without a project and no cash flow coming in. The County will own the building and lease it to Live Nation.

Jon Lourie asked when Bruce Lee expected to make application to the Planning Board.

Bruce Lee responded if successful with the ZTA and SRA submittal being submitted by the County Executive in November. The County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer are both very confident that they have the necessary Council votes for the project. This will be a long process and we will need support all the way through.

Jon Lourie asked who the Committee and/or individuals should be writing to in support of the project and what should ask for.

Bruce Lee responded that they would work with Silver Spring Regional Center staff and get all the information needed.

Mary Pat Spon stated that the perception is very good. The continuing concern is what happens when you do have 2,000 people in the building with a bunch of young adults coming across the street creating havoc with businesses and restaurants. The other issue is pedestrian safety when the event is over many people will be crossing in the middle of the street and that affects traffic. It is my understanding that discussions were held about the CBD having a different type traffic flow in the future that might make Georgia and Colesville one-way.

Barbara Henry stated that idea is not going to happen because it was squashed.

Jon Lourie stated one of the bigger issues is at the Jazz Festival the parking garages where crowded and it took 45 minutes to exit. I have heard on the street and in my neighborhood that a lot of people are upset about the Birchmere not being the venue because they were comfortable with it. It is important that you continue to do outreach and show what Live Nation is doing.

Bruce Lee responded if you look at the venues they are currently booking in the DC area that will give you an idea.

Jon Lourie stated that if this gets us moving in term of the parking lot and development on your property this would be great.

Pete Esker stated that the County will own the building, not collect the revenue do you know if it will be straight rent or an arrangement.

Bruce Lee responded the rent has been worked out in the LOI and is reduced below market rent because no venue can afford market rate rent. What is neat about this deal is after a period of 15 or 18 years Live Nation has an opportunity to buy the building back and the County gets reimbursed 100%. This deal has no on-going subsidy which is the key.

Jon Lourie stated that Theresa Cameron who is very attuned to the need for grant money for arts groups has been very supportive from the standpoint that Live Nation will not be going to the County for additional money. AFI is still supported on a yearly basis.

Neal Blake responded that Live Nation will pay property taxes, operating cost, electricity and everything else beyond their base rent and this is a good deal for both parties.

Pete Esker stated that the perception of Silver Spring always having their hand-out is hurting other projects so in your pitch to the community you need to hit the fiscal aspects of the project.

Mary Pat Spon stated that at the SSCAB meeting discussions was about whether or not Silver Spring had enough traction not to have to subsidize Live Nation. The Birchmere was a one of a kind place in Alexandria without deep pockets like Live Nation so why do we need to provide them with the same incentives.

Barbara Henry stated that no one has moved to Silver Spring that did not get some kind of subsidy.

Bruce Lee responded that there is no way any of these venues can economically come in a downtown area where real estate and rental rates are expensive without subsidy.

Barbara Henry announced that Olazzo is open and the food is terrific.

Zoning Text Amendment

Mel Tull reported that:

- Park and Planning is having a hearing on Wednesday, October 25 on Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 07-14 The Public Hearing at Council is on October 30 and goes to PHED on November 5. There is opportunity to give support and send a letter now.

Jon Lourie asked what the urgency of this.

Mel Tull responded that there is a place ready to jump into development and Washington Properties discuss this back in the Ripley Area. The height minimum of 143 feet sitting on top of that block means there is a lot of wasted density and the idea of being able to raise the height limit to 200 feet would make sense. Its right up against the railroad tracks within an easy walk to the new transit center. Basically it is a proposal to create the density where it should be.

Jon Lourie asked if the Ripley District extended all the way to Georgia and what about the property on Georgia Avenue are we saying that those building can go to 200 feet.

Mel Tull responded that in a development it would not be the little 1,000 to 7,000 square feet pieces you see there now it would be part of a development.

Jon Lourie asked if there was anything mention in the memorandum about not going full height on Georgia Avenue.

Mel Tull responded anything going through this would be Optional Method.

Jon Lourie asked to give a perspective where are we now.

Barbara Henry responded currently you we are at 140 feet. Every developer I have talked with stated if they do not get the height we are not building the extra space for retail because they can not make the economic of it work.

Jon Lourie asked about the size of the property being developed and obviously going into Optional Method Development can the size of the project support not going the full 200 feet over the entire site.

Mel Tull responded that we are not changing the density but you can go up to 200 feet and it does not mean 200 feet over the entire site.

Jon Lourie stated that there is nothing in the memorandum that addresses limiting height right on Georgia Avenue.

Pete Esker asked Mel Tull if he was suggesting that the Committee should write a letter in support of the ZTA 07-14.

Jon Lourie asked what position has the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board taken on this issue.

Mary Pat Spon stated that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board reviewed the issue and they needed a super majority of the Board to move forward with a letter. There were a number of members of the Board who did not understand what the ZTA really meant and we had people in the audience lobbying very hard for these smaller buildings that front Georgia because of their historic relevance. The Board made the decision to not act and felt that there was time after the Hearing to take action at the November meeting.

Mel Tull stated that the areas being discussed is south of Ripley Street where the mattress warehouse and the old pawn shop is.

Jon Lourie responded it does make sense to build tall building along the railroad corridor my only concerns is the character of Georgia Avenue in the future and whether or not there was anything right adjacent to Georgia Avenue. What position has the Planning staff taken on this issue and what are their recommendations?

Mel Tull responded that he had not seen anything regarding the Planning staff position and would not expect to see anything until slightly before the Planning Board agenda on October 25.

Pete Esker stated that this issue was in Wheaton also and a spirited meeting was held there recently. I want to know if we are congruent or are we going to step out to far ahead of the parade.

Mary Pat Spon responded that she is not aware of the discussion in Wheaton but members in our audience at the SSCAB meeting who spoke about the concern for some of the buildings including the garage that goes back to the 1920 and that Georgia Avenue is main street of Silver Spring and there should be some preservation of that main street.

Jon Lourie stated that he was visualizing what the urban environment is going to be like and the height of the buildings. When you look at the street Foulger Pratt created those building are of a certain height.

Barbara Henry stated that she was concern about having limits that will constrict the potential for what may come. In the future what happens on the west side of Georgia Avenue will determine entirely what happens on the east side of Georgia Avenue and we are not going to get to save everything nor should it be saved. There are some characteristics and feeling of Silver Spring that needs to be maintained but for this to be maintain there has to be economic viability.

Pete Esker stated that this will have a big impact on Fenton Street where they are already trying to reduce the height limit to down to like 40 feet and gut property value in the entire area

Jon Lourie asked what the height limit currently is for Fenton Village.

Mel Tull responded that it was restricted by the overlay zone to 90 feet except near Fenton Street it is down to 60 feet.

Jon Lourie stated that from an architectural standpoint I would want a maximum of 90 feet along Georgia Avenue for a certain distance and then allow it to go to 200 feet beyond to have a balance along Georgia Avenue.

Mel Tull stated that the essence of this gives the Planning Board a chance to approve the building going up to the 200 feet and give the Planning Board in the site plan a chance to allow it.

Motion: (Henry, Esker) the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to send a letter to the Planning Board in support of the Zoning Text Amendment.

Barbara Henry stated that she appreciated the Officers of MVM having a sense of humor because of the challenges in the DCTC parking garage. Apparently one of them went over with a camera and photographed the interior of cars and gave us the photographs showing GPS systems, computers, keys in the car, and Audio stereo systems in full view.

Parking Update

Rick Siebert reported that:

- In terms of security in the parking garages we have an extremely low rate of crimes against persons. We have significant issues with graffiti, crime dealing with snatch and grab where you break a window reach in and grab an item and with stolen cars. In the past we have had Officers there in the morning and had a fairly large presence while commuters were arriving to park. In one garage in Bethesda and another in Silver Spring we have shifted our force more in the afternoon, evenings and some overnight to see if we can actually make an impact. We are going to look at this some more and our redeployment but fear that it actually decreases the perception of security because the morning commuters don't see anymore security guards even though we are actually being more effective.
- There are cameras in garage 5, the Bonifant Street garage at the entrances, the Cameron Street garage at all the pay stations and the elevator lobby, in both Town Square and Wayne Avenue garages on every pay station, entrance to the stairwells and every elevator lobby area. All cameras are digitally recorded and connected via the internet so Stan Gray can be in his Gaithersburg Office and actually call-up any one of those cameras at any time.

Barbara Henry stated that the Committee was going to have discussion on parking rates but how critical is this in terms of timing and could we postpone this discussion until our November meeting?

Rick Siebert responded that there are on-going discussions within the Executive Staff and no position has been reached on the debt to the construction of the Wayne Avenue and Town Square garages. The Parking Lot District owes the general fund \$40 million dollars plus interest which continues to accumulate on an annual basis. In the 1990's the general fund loaned money to the Parking Lot District to do some critical restoration capital maintenance of some of the garages those funds are still owed plus interest. Last year, County Council staff suggested a rate increase and we did projections for that staff as to how much money it would raise and it was about \$335,000 dollars and it did not go very well. The money that was going to be raised Council immediately transferred to the General Fund to payback some of these loans. The question is do you want to raise rate if the money is taken right out your

District and handed to the General Fund. If the community were going to support a rate increase maybe you should think about having some caveat and say the money has to remain within the Urban District. The other big philosophical issue is even during the time the Parking Lot District was getting the loan from County Council to do capital improvements the Parking Lot District was transferring funds in excess of that to the Urban District. So how much of the Urban District budget should be shouldered by the General Fund verses what percentage of the fund should be shouldered by the Parking Lot District. The statute speaks to this and states the Parking Lot District can not put more than 90% of the Urban District budget on the Parking Lot District but it also has a minimum of 10%. The Committee may want to express an opinion on what that mix should be. If the PLD raises the funds, transferring it to the Urban District then it is still not available to build more parking and operate facilities. I will try and get back with you as we go forward with scenarios on, how much funds might be raised by some rate increases, and where we are with PLD operating expenses, employees salaries, Urban District transfers etc.

Marketing/Special Events:

Barbara Henry reported the summary report is in the packet. Susan Hoffmann asked me to convey that the Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade is Saturday November 17th; 10:00 a.m. to Noon, poster and flyers are available at the Silver Spring Regional Center

Urban District Report

Jerry Sanford reported:

- Farmers Market will end later this month.
- Artist Market that Brenda Smoak coordinates is moving from its current location to Ellsworth and Fenton on the Green Space until December.
- We have had a very busy season with a lot more activities and have hired a number of new staff.
- In June, July and August we had an increase of graffiti primarily by one or two individuals using the same tagging repeatedly. We worked closely with the Police Department and they caught three teenagers.
- The Urban District staff has two new Segways. We received a lot of positive feedback and hope in the next year that we can get two more.

Barbara Henry asked if the Urban District could have some focus particularly after purchasing the two new Seaways on the path between the Downtown Silver Spring and the Marc Station in the evening rush as we move the transit center.

- Continued coordination with DPW&T staff on Silver Spring Transit Center – Interim Operating Site.

Director Report

Mel Tull reported that:

- The Urban District Staff was working on the brick sidewalk for the upcoming parade and found one spot with water from underground. We sent an email to WSSC this week and they are repairing it already.
- Veteran Plaza and Civic Building are moving along and scheduled for construction sometime this winter.
- Work continues on the Purple Line and the selection of a route through Silver Spring. They had some focus group meetings recently and in the November, December timeframe will return and make a public presentation about their findings and what they are doing.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.